



Here begynneth a lytell treatysse  
called Ars moriendi.



Here beginneth a lytell treatysse shorte  
ly compyled and called ars moriendi.  
that is to saye the craft for to deye for  
the helthe of mannes soule.

**A**han ony of lyklyhode shall deye,  
thenne is moost necessarye to haue  
a spesyal frende the whiche wyll  
hertly helpe & praye for hym and  
therwith couseyll the lyke for the  
weele of his soule & more ouer to  
se that all other so do about hym or elles quichly  
for to make hym departe. ¶ Therme is to be reme-  
bred the grete benefaytes of god done for hym un-  
to that tyme & spesyally of the passyon of our lord  
& thenne is to be rede some storiye of layntes or the  
vij. psalmes with the letanye of our lady lawter in  
part or hoole with other. And euer the ymage of  
the cruceyfire is to be had in his syght with other.  
And holy water is oftymes to be cast vpon & about  
hy for auoydynge of euyll spyrtes þ whiche therme  
be full redy to take theyr auantage of the soule yf  
they may. ¶ And thenne & euer make hym crye for  
mercy & grace and for the helpe of our blesyd lady  
& of other layntes in whom afore he had a syngul-  
ler trust & loue & therupon to make his prayers yf  
he may. ¶ Whan deth cometh or ony gretuous pany-

ges/or other grete sykenes/thenne prayer or deuocyn  
on asswageth/ wherfore it is wylde for one to  
praye afore ony sykenesse come/ and also whan one  
may in his sykenesse yf he wyl not be deceyued.

**C**o he is happy & may be glad that such a tym  
me of moost nede hath a faychfull frende & þ wyl  
laxe belyde the prayers afore rehersed & cause other  
also to laxe deuoutly in remembraunce of the chary  
te of Ihesu Criste & of his passyon/ and for to ha  
ue the rather his mercy & helpe .iiij. þt n̄t and .iiij.  
Alues with a Credo/ & therwith to exhorte hym by  
a preest or for nede by an other in the maner as it  
foloweth.

**B**roder or syster remembre well þ god sayth  
þ by his prophete & euangelyst. Blesyd be tho  
that deye & departe in our lorde/ þ is to laxe from  
the worlde & his pleasures/ & deye in the true faych  
of the chirche & repentaunce for his synnes. **S**yr  
ye haue gret cause to be glad for to departe from  
this wretched worlde & fall of all mylery/ & thyn  
þe that ye nedes must departe/ & despyre herch to be  
with Ihesu Criste your maker/redemer/ and lorde  
god/ for he shall geue to you now your enheritaunce  
that he dyde bye for you with his preuous passyon  
and blood/ wherfore this tym of your departhyng  
shall be better to you than the tym of your byrþ  
for now all sykenesse sorowe & trouble shall depar  
te now from you for euer. Therfor be not agreued

With your lykennesse & take it not with gruchyng  
but take it rather by all gladnesse. ¶ He at all tymes  
that ye be stable in your fayth & bylene / and  
saye your Credo yf that ye may or elles desyre an  
other heartly to doo ic for you here afore vs openly:  
And arm you euer with the sygne of the crosse ✠  
as a cristen man for your defence ayenst your ghos-  
tly enemys / in þ whiche doyng / god wyll be gret-  
ly pleased & the rather take you for one of his fol-  
ke by proteccyon & grace and as his childe of sal-  
uacion. ¶ Haue euer a good & true bylene / and no  
chynge may be Imposyble unto you. And euer be-  
ware that ye falle not in dyspeyre for that gretely  
wolde dysplease god / & can not be remedied. And  
remembrie the synnes done afore tymne shall never  
hurt you as to dampnacion / yf they please you not  
now & that ye be sory for them. ¶ Saynt Jerome  
sayth / yf one sholde take his lykennesse or his deeth  
with gruchyng / it is a token þ he loueth not god  
suffyencely / all is ryghtwysle that we suffre. ¶ De-  
syre with saynt Austin of our lordre here to be eutte  
with trybulacion & to be brenned with lehenesse &  
sorowe / so that ye may be sauved herafter for euer.  
¶ Now meche your selfe & be sory that ye haue ben  
so unkynde to please & to kepe his comandementes  
& presume not as of your self ony goodnesse / and  
laye with all mechenes thus. ¶ Good lordre Ihesu  
Criste I knowleche that I haue synned gretously /  
and by thy grace I wyll gladdely amende me yf I

Cholde lyue haue mercy now of me for thy bytter  
passyon. ¶ Than aske hym thysse questyons folowynge  
afore his deth.

**B**Be glad that ye shall deye in cristen byles  
Bue. Lete hym answere / ye / knowe ye that ye  
haue not so wel lyued as ye sholde / ye / haue ye wyl  
to amende yf that ye sholde lyue / ye / byleue ye that  
Jhesu Criste goddes lone of heuen was born of the  
blessyd virgyn Marye / ye / byleue ye also that Jhesu  
Criste deyed vpon the crosse to bye mannes soule  
on good frydaye / ye / do ye thanke god therfore / ye /  
Byleue ye that ye may not be sauued but by his pas-  
syon & deth / ye / ¶ As longe as the soule is in your  
body thanke god for his deth / and haue a sure trust  
by it & his passyon to be sauued. And counseyl hym  
to lave yf that he may thysse folowynge wordes of  
grete vertue.

**I**Put Cristis passyon betwix me & myn enemys  
werkis / and betwix me & his wrache. Now  
lorde god be merciful to me a synner. ¶ The pe-  
se of our lorde Jhesu Criste and the vertue of his  
passyon with the sygne of the holy crosse & and the  
vndefoyled virgynyte of the blessyd Mary his mo-  
der / and the bleslyng of all layntes / & the protec-  
yon of all holy angels with the helpe & prayer of all  
layntes be betwix me & all myn enemys now and  
in the houre of my deth & departyng Amyn.  
¶ Also thysse verles folowynge be of grete vertue

in the tyme of dech / & to be sayd of the syke yf he  
may or by an other for hym. Dilupisti dñe vincu-  
la mea tibi sacrificabo hostiā laudis. et nomen dñi  
imucabo. Deus ppicius esto michi peccatori. Dñe  
ihsu xpe ego cognosco me grauiter peccasse. et libens  
ter volo me emendare per grām tuā. Misericordia mei  
ppter amarā passionē tuā. Dñe ihsu redemisti nos  
in sanguine tuo. laus sit tibi p amara passione tua  
Largice clarū vespere. quo vita nulq̄ decidat. sed pres-  
ervū mortis sacre perennis instet gloria. ¶ Alls to  
our Lady. Maria plena gracie mater misericordie.  
tu nos ab hoste protege. et in hora mortis suscipe.  
And at laste. In manus tuas dñe cōmendo spiritū  
meū. In noīe patris et filij & spiritus sancti Amen

¶ There foloweth a shorte & swete remembraunce of  
the sacrament of y awter or y it be receyued of the  
syke persone or of ony other afore ther comunyng

**W**elcome blesyd Ihsu my lorde god & sauour  
to whom is apropreyd all mercy & pyte. Re-  
membrē good lorde how freyll my nature and sub-  
stānce is / and haue mercy & pyte on me grete syns  
after thy grete mercyes & for thy bytter passyon  
for I knowleche and byleue faythfully as a christen  
childe of thyn / that thou here in fourme of bredes  
is the same my lorde god that of thy goodnesse cos-  
me downe from heuen & was born and toke my na-  
ture of the blesyd vrgyne Mary / & deyed for me

and rose the thyrde daye & after ascended in to heuen / and there reyngeth with the fader & the holy ghost & all sayntes for euer Immortall the whiche for our grete helthe freylte & dayly transgressyon & in remembraunce of thy grete loue & passyon haste ordeyned this thy blesyd body in this wyle to be taken of me and of all other wyllynge to be saued .

**C**I knowe well that I am feare vnworthy to be called thy childe or seruaunt for the grete multitude of my synnes / how be it þ mayste make me ryghes full & able the whiche only of synnes hast made grete sayntes of heuen . By the thy grete power and myght graunte me now to take the meekly in all feire & in waylynge for my synnes & with sprytyuall gladnes . Come now good lorde in to my herte and clese it of all synne entirly to my soule & make it hole / & therwith sanctifye me within & without / and be my defence for body & soule rebukynge and puttynge a syde all myn enmyes ferre from the presence of thy power / that I therne so defended by the may haue a free and sure passage to thy kyngdom where I shall not se the in this tourne by my selfe but I shall se the face to face whete I shall neuere hungry ne churste / but euer be in Joye with the and thynne thereto glorifye the & to worshyp þ to laude & to prayse the worlde withouten ende Amen .

**C**By thyse folowynge areþ vnyall synnes taken awaye yf they be done deuoutly .

**T**aking holy water holy bredē also by sayng  
enge of the patēt and sp̄rytually for this  
clauſe & p̄tencyon. Dimitte nobis debita nostra si-  
c ut et nos dimittim⁹ debitorib⁹ nostris. And also  
by knockynge of the brest for ones synnes and also  
for layenge of De⁹ ppici⁹ esto michi pacōni and by  
layenge the comyn Confiteor at masse or at other  
tyme. Also by receyuyng of ony of the sacraments  
of the chirche & sp̄cally of the body of our lorde.  
Also by herynge of masse & by the lyght of the sac-  
rament of the awter there or elles where. By the  
blessynge of a bishop or of a prestre at his masse.  
By ony of the dedes of mercy by pardons by mar-  
tyrdom & penaūce by forgeuenes to a trespassour  
by good example geuyng or for conuertyng of  
other to good lyf by pacience thankynge in trou-  
ble & by contrycyon of synnes with dyspleasure of  
hem. And for euery good dede doyngē with good  
entent & deuocyon Amen.

**T**he famous doctor John Gerson Chaūſeler  
of Parys takynge his grounde of holy scripture &  
accordyngē with holy doctours sayth thus.

**O**ure moost mercyfull fader lorde god / knos  
wynge our freylte & redynesse to al synne is  
euer redy duryngē this wretchyd & mortall lyfe by  
many & dyuerse wayes to forgue vs euer our fre-  
pace & to graūt and geue vs his grace yf so be that

truly we do ordene unto hym thysle. iiiij. vertues followinge so that they be layd & done with all the herte devoutly. The fyfth is that thou shal saye. Blesyd lorde I knowleche that I haue synned greuously ayenst thy goodnesse thus & thus rebelynge thy synnes. & I am dyspleased therwith by reason of the whiche I do penaunce & wyll do for I knowe well that I haue greued the mercyfull lorde & brokhen thy comandementes in the whiche thou onely ought to be worshyped. The seconde / saye this. Good lorde I haue a good purpose & desyre with thy helpe to be ryghte ware herafter that I falle not in to synne. & I entend to flee the occaysons after the possybylyte of my power. The thyrde is this. Gracious lorde I haue good wyll to make an honest confessyon of all my synnes whan place & tyme conuenient may be had accordyng to thy comandementes & al holy chirche. Thysle. iij. vertees or trewthes who so euer laych with his herte unfaynnyngly in what place þ euer he be he may be sure þ he is in the state of grace & saluacion & þ he shall haue euer lastyng lyf though all he had done all the synnes of the worlde. And yf he deceasid without any other confessyon for lack of a preest as slepyng or lodeyned desch he shalde be saue suffryng afore harde payne in purgatory wherfore it is good coulseyl þ euerysteyn man ones or twyce on þ daye erly or late or elles at least on holy dayes examen his consciencie & remembre yf þ he may with al his herte unfaynnyngly

this layd. iiiij. trewthes / & yf he can so do / he may be  
sure þ he is in the state of grace / & yf he may not /  
but is in wyl to synne agayn / & to haue his delecta-  
cion w dede / & wyll not flee the occasyons of mortal  
synnes / & so drowned in synne wyll not arysse / such  
one may be certeyne þ the pope may not assoyle hym  
not for thy good it is þ such one vse moche prayer &  
geue almesse & do other good dedes after theyr pos-  
wer / that god the racher may lyghten theyr hertes  
& the sooner come to goodnesse Amen.

Here foloweth a synguler prayer to be layd in  
the fest of the dedycacyon of ony chirche or at ony  
other tyme.

**O** Myghtyfull & moost pyteuous lorde god Ihe  
su Cryst whiche of thy grete goodnesse hath  
ordeyned all thynges that ben in heuen and in er-  
the for the vse and weale of man / to the entente &  
ende that they shall serue hym / and he the allone.  
And how be it that in eche place thou ought to be  
serued and worshypped / yet it pleaseþ the moche  
more such seruyce and prayer in a place or chirche  
that is dedysped / enuyled and halowed by a bys-  
shop and his mynisters with ymynes / psalmes /  
and letanyes / and other suffragyes with theyr  
mysteryall obseruauntes ordeyned therfore / and  
for by cause thy precyous body and blod is thes-  
re dayly offred vp vnto thy fader in heuen in knes-

Wiche of thy grete loue & passyon that thou had<sup>est</sup>  
dest for man. ¶ And yf ic pleased the in the olde ten  
stament with thyng angels nyght & daye to be assy-  
stant & to here the prayers of thy seruauntes in the  
temple/where was but fleshe & blood of vntresona-  
ble beestes offred in sacrefyce/muche more we trusche  
that thou wylt vpsyte & be assystant to vs nyght &  
daye with thyng angels in this thy newe temple and  
chirche/where thyng owne body & very blood dayly  
is offred vp vnto thy fader of heuen/ & therwith re-  
ceyued accordynge to thy desyre & wyll of vs thy ser-  
uauntes though synners for our saluacion & therto  
here the prayers of vs & other that entend to loue  
worshyp & chanke the in the best maner we can or  
may. ¶ Now thenne blesyd lorde full of all mercy  
& pyte that wyll that we calle vpon the & hath pro-  
myled to here the prayers of thy seruauntes graunte  
now & at all tymes to vs and to all other of thy sus-  
perhabundant mercy & grace that who so euer co-  
me vnto this chirche or to ony other with deuocion  
& praye in what caas that euer they be prosperite  
temptacion/trouble/or aduersyte/that theyr petys-  
yon behouefull & necessary prayer may be herde/ &  
that the pardone graunted to them may in her sou-  
les & bodyes with all other thynges apperteynyng  
vnto them may take effect in euery parte gracyous-  
ly. ¶ And ouer this graunte vs of thy pyte/peale &  
acorde in thy chirche & realme/and to our foulders  
faders & moderis/frendes/benefactours/and to all

aryshen soules forgeuenes of theyr synnes with res-  
lette of theyr paynes & Joye perpetuel. And fynally  
we desyre of thy bounteuous goodnesse seasonable  
weder with fruytes & to exclude from vs pestylence  
hungre moreyne & sekenesse and all enemyes gho-  
stly & bodily and therwith graunte vs of thy grace  
good lyf & endelesse blysse. Amen.

Here folowen the. xiij. degrees of humlyfete.

**C**aste thy lyght donewarde / & shewe mckenesse  
bothe in thy herte & body.

**C** Beware of hyghe speche & clamorous / & le that  
thy wordes be fewe well sette / & reasonable.

**C** Be not lyght for to laughe but vse euer sadnessse

**C** Be styll & hepe sylence to nede require that an  
swere muste be hadde.

**C** Repe well the comyn rule as the holy place hath  
vled.

**C** Thynke the moost vylest of all other & soo pro-  
nounce thy selfe.

**C** Knowleche the vnworthy & not prouiftable to  
ony thyng / & so byleue in dede.

**C** Make ofte confessyon of thy synnes / & that with  
grete contrycyon.

**C** Repe pacience in thy obedyence at all thy pay-  
nes & trouble.

**C** To all people be þ subget for thy maysteris sake

**C** Thy owne wyl forsake it / & loue it in no wyle

¶ And euer kepe the from synne for feare of hym  
aboue.

¶ The. viij. degrees of obeyence.

¶ The fyriste is to do that is comauded of thy soi  
uerayne without grutchynge.

¶ The seconde is to make none excepcon/neycher  
of the tyme n eycher of the dede þ is to be done.

¶ The thyrde is to be glad & cherefull in thy herte  
to do luche dedes comauded without ony compul  
syon settynge a syde all beestly condycyons.

¶ The. iiii. is to be quyche in luche dede droyng  
uynge all other occupacyons for that tyme or ony  
maner of excuse.

¶ The. v. is to do luche thynges w all thy myght  
& power/ chynkyng þ thy rewarde shal be grete.

¶ The. vi. is to doo hem also with all nichenelle  
bothe in spyryte & gesture.

¶ The. viij. is to contynue luche obeyence to thens  
de of thy lyf euer folowyng thy mayster Ihu cryst  
that was made obedient for thy synne vnto deeth.

¶ The. xij. degrees of pacience.

¶ The. xij. degrees of pacience thou mayst behol  
de here.

¶ To euyll done to the or aduersyte make noo re  
systence.

¶ Do not euyll for euyll ne geue an euyll ans were  
¶ loue thy enemye & do good for euyll to hym in  
recompence.

¶ Grutche not agaynst aduersyte / but take it as  
swete encence.

¶ Accompte it for best medycyne / and be gladde in  
thy Payne.

¶ Thanke god therfore / and loke for more with  
all benyolencie.

¶ And whan þ hast no grutchynge in thyse thenne  
mayst thou be fayne.

¶ The .xv. degrees of charyte.

¶ Thyse make perfyte charyte after poules epystle

¶ Be pacience contynuell for ony aduersyte.

¶ Lyberall to the nedie / and good do for euyll.

¶ Of other mennes welfare enuye not ne by heuy

¶ Lete not by thy crookednesse good werkis to mul-  
tynge.

¶ Swelle not Inwarde by malyce yf thy neygh-  
bour prospere.

¶ loue to be in lowe degree & lothe to be highe.

¶ To labour for other as thy self do thy vicer de-  
uoyre.

¶ Be not moevyd for ony cause to vengeaunce on  
to Ire.

¶ Thynke none euyll to an other for ony prouoca-  
cyon.

**C**loupe thou not in wychednesse but forwe thou  
rather.  
**C**Be gladdie in trouthe & ryghtwysnesse and hate  
synulacyon.  
**C**for liche ryght bere aduersyee or ony trybulacion  
**C**To þe thurthe seeth the pycfull credulite.  
**C**That god hath promyed trusse ic well withoute  
defallacyon.  
**C**In hope abydyng his rewarde and euerlastyn-  
ge gloriye. Amen.

**C**here endeth a lytell creatyle called ars moriendi  
Enpriynted at Westmynstre by Wynken de worde.



